U.S. Pat. Appl. Ser. No. 10/566,809 Attorney Docket No. 10191/4082 Reply to Office Action of July 29, 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

- 1-9. (Canceled).
- 10. (Currently Amended) The device as recited in Claim [[9]] 13, further comprising: an arrangement for comparing the first signal to a noise threshold to ascertain a starting point for the first comparison.
- 11. (Currently Amended) The device as recited in Claim [[9]] 13, wherein the second signal includes a relative speed.
- 12. (Currently Amended) [[The]] A device as recited in Claim 10 for activating an actuator system for protecting a pedestrian, the device being connected to an environment sensor system and a contact sensor system, further the device comprising:

an arrangement for performing a first comparison of a first signal from the contact sensor system to a threshold;

an arrangement for changing one of the threshold and the first signal as a function of a second signal of the environment sensor system, the actuator system being activated as a function of the comparing;

an arrangement for comparing the first signal to a noise threshold to ascertain a starting point for the first comparison; and

an arrangement for determining a starting point for the first comparison from a third signal of the environment sensor system.

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13. (Currently Amended) [[The]] A device as recited in Claim 9 for activating an actuator system for protecting a pedestrian, the device being connected to an environment sensor system and a contact sensor system, further the device comprising:

an arrangement for performing a first comparison of a first signal from the contact sensor system to a threshold;

an arrangement for changing one of the threshold and the first signal as a function of a second signal of the environment sensor system, the actuator system being activated as a function of the comparing; and

an arrangement for changing the threshold as a function of time.

- 14. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in Claim 12, further comprising: an arrangement for setting the noise threshold as a function of the third signal.
- 15. (Currently Amended) The device as recited in Claim [[9]] 12, further comprising: an arrangement for one of differentiating and integrating the first signal for comparison at least once.
- 16. (Currently Amended) The device as recited in Claim [[9]] 12, wherein the first signal itself is used for the first comparison.
- 17. (New) The device as recited in Claim 13, further comprising: an arrangement for one of differentiating and integrating the first signal for comparison at least once.
- 18. (New) The device as recited in Claim 15, wherein the first signal itself is used for the first comparison.
- 19. (New) The device as recited in Claim 13, wherein the first signal itself is used for the first comparison.
- 20. (New) The device as recited in Claim 11, further comprising: an arrangement for one of differentiating and integrating the first signal for comparison at least once.
- 21. (New) The device as recited in Claim 20, wherein the first signal itself is used for the first comparison.

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- 22. (New) The device as recited in Claim 11, wherein the first signal itself is used for the first comparison.
- 23. (New) The device as recited in Claim 10, wherein the first signal itself is used for the first comparison.
- 24. (New) The device as recited in Claim 10, further comprising: an arrangement for one of differentiating and integrating the first signal for comparison at least once.
- 25. (New) The device as recited in Claim 24, wherein the first signal itself is used for the first comparison.
- 26. (New) The device as recited in Claim 10, wherein the second signal includes a relative speed.
- 27. (New) The device as recited in Claim 26, further comprising: an arrangement for one of differentiating and integrating the first signal for comparison at least once.
- 28. (New) The device as recited in Claim 26, wherein the first signal itself is used for the first comparison.
- 29. (New) A device for activating an actuator system for protecting a pedestrian, the device being connected to an environment sensor system and a contact sensor system, the device comprising:

an arrangement for performing a first comparison of a first signal from the contact sensor system to a threshold;

an arrangement for changing one of the threshold and the first signal as a function of a second signal of the environment sensor system, the actuator system being activated as a function of the comparing; and

an arrangement for determining a starting point for the first comparison from a third signal of the environment sensor system.

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